

Dear SB 913 Chair and Committee Members,

May 18, 2015

We are an international jewelry company based in Boise, Idaho offering handmade designs that integrate ancient mammoth and fossilized walrus ivories. **We are in full support of any regulation that stops the elephant, rhino, and endangered ivory trade.**

However, since the ban does not distinguish between the new ivory trade and that involving ancient and fossilized ivories, we strongly believe that there are potential devastating economic and socioeconomic impacts on businesses such as ours that serve customers in Oregon, as well as the Native Americans who depend on the livelihood of ancient ivory gathering, should SB 913 be passed into law.

Know the Difference! New vs Ancient Ivory

- Ancient mammoth and fossilized walrus ivories are long dead versus these new and endangered ivories.
- Ancient and fossilized ivories are clearly distinguishable from elephant and new ivory based on observable crosshatching patterns and mineral deposit coloring.
- See http://www.fws.gov/lab/ivory_natural.php for more information on distinguishing between new and ancient ivory from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Forensics Lab in Ashland, Oregon.

Economic Impact of Banning Ancient Ivory

- Many Alaskan Native populations on the Bering Sea Islands and the Yukon River Basin supplement their subsistence economy by gathering ancient ivories for sale and/or trade. Removing this source of income would be harmful to these populations.
- We are one of many ethical and law-abiding wholesale ancient ivory product distributors who have a large customer base in Oregon.
- Our many Oregon retail outlets would be significantly affected by a generalized ban that prohibits ongoing ancient ivory sales.

One of our key sales representatives residing in Oregon, Deb Atiyeh, stands with us in this message and in our desire to help educate law makers so that they can make informed legislative decisions. Deb's family has a long history of advocating for Native American rights and is concerned as we are about the potential damage a ban such as this will have to many families who rely on the ancient ivory trade.

We believe our goals are mutual: to protect threatened living sources of illegal ivory and sustain non-threatened legal sources of ancient and fossilized ivories. **Please keep the focus where it belongs—on elephant, rhinoceros, and new ivory—and vote NO on SB 913.**

We hope that our message helps to clarify the important difference between the active slaughter of live elephants and rhinos versus the gathering and use of ancient mammoth and fossilized walrus ivories in economically-sustaining industries such as ours.

Thank you for your support.

Respectfully Submitted,

Chuck Linak and Jenny Byrne
Zealandia Designs
Boise, ID
208-342-1617
jennybyrne@zealandia.com
www.zealandia.com

Deb Atiyeh
Zealandia Sales Rep
West Linn, OR
503-636-9376
debatiyeh@yahoo.com